

Applicant : Alexander Hilscher et al
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-41. (Canceled).

42. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device, comprising:

a ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion having a ~~bristle~~ cleaning section in the vicinity of one end thereof;

a handle portion, with a driver assembly therein for driving the ~~bristle~~ cleaning section, wherein the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion and the handle portion are adapted such that the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion is ~~removable from~~ removably connectable to the handle portion;

communication means for data communication between the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion and the handle portion when the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion and handle portion are joined together, wherein the communications means comprises a radio signal transmitting and receiving means in the cleaning tool portion and a corresponding radio signal transmitting and receiving means in the handle portion;

a memory element in the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion for storing at least data ~~which~~ that identifies the brushhead cleaning tool portion and data that indicates one or more operating parameters for use with the cleaning tool portion; and

a microcontroller in the handle portion, wherein the memory element in the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion provides ~~information~~ data therein to the microcontroller via the communication means.

43. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller in operation accumulates ~~information~~ data concerning use of the ~~brushhead~~

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cleaning tool portion, and wherein the ~~toothbrush~~ oral care device includes means for reading information data in the memory element in the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion to the microcontroller.

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the information data is used to monitor use of the ~~toothbrush~~ oral care device.

47. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the ~~toothbrush~~ oral care device will not operate unless the information data from the memory element is valid, as determined by the microcontroller.

48. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device of claim 42, including means for displaying selected information data related to the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion.

49. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device of claim 42, further including a device for providing operating information data to define particular operations of the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion.

50. (Cancelled).

51. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device of claim 50 ~~42~~, wherein the ~~wireless components~~ radio signal transmitting and receiving means include coils ~~on~~ in the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion and the handle for inductive communication.

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52. (Currently amended) ~~A toothbrush~~ An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller includes means for evaluating the time of past uses of the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion.

53. (Currently amended) A ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion of ~~a toothbrush~~ an oral care device, the ~~toothbrush~~ oral care device including a handle portion to which the ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool portion can be removably joined, the cleaning tool portion comprising:

~~a brushhead assembly which includes a bristle~~ cleaning section in the vicinity of one end of the cleaning tool portion, the brushhead assembly adapted to be removable from the handle portion of the toothbrush;

~~communication means for data communication between the brushhead assembly~~ cleaning tool portion and a separate device the handle portion, wherein the communications means comprises a radio signal transmitting and receiving means in the cleaning tool portion that operates with a corresponding radio signal transmitting and receiving means in the handle portion; and

~~a memory element in the brushhead assembly~~ cleaning tool portion for storing data identifying the brushhead assembly cleaning tool portion and data that indicates one or more operating parameters for use with the cleaning tool portion.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Cancelled)

56. (Cancelled)

57. (Currently amended) A ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool of claim ~~[[52]]~~ 53, wherein the communication means includes electrically conductive elements.

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58. (Cancelled)

59. (Currently amended) A ~~brushhead~~ cleaning tool of claim ~~[[58]]~~ 53, wherein the ~~wireless components include coils~~ radio signal transmitting and receiving means includes a coil for inductive communication.

60. (New) An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the oral care device comprises a toothbrush and the cleaning tool portion comprises a brushhead portion.

61. (New) A cleaning tool of claim 53, wherein the oral care device is a toothbrush and the cleaning tool portion comprises a brushhead portion.

62. (New) An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the cleaning tool portion comprises a bristle section, an interproximal cleaning section, a gum massager section, or a tongue cleaning section.

63. (New) A cleaning tool of claim 53, wherein the cleaning tool portion comprises a bristle section, an interproximal cleaning section, a gum massager section, or a tongue cleaning section.

64. (New) An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the operating parameters comprise cleaning frequency, cleaning speed, cleaning time, cleaning threshold value, driving motion, or range or value of application pressure of the cleaning section.

65. (New) A cleaning tool of claim 53, wherein the operating parameters comprise cleaning frequency, cleaning speed, cleaning time, cleaning threshold value, driving motion, or range or value of application pressure of the cleaning section.

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66. (New) An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller is configured to store a user profile defining at least one of the operating parameters.

67. (New) An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the communication means includes electrically conductive elements.

68. (New) An oral care device of claim 42, wherein the microcontroller uses the data from the cleaning tool portion to adapt one or more operating parameters of the oral care device.